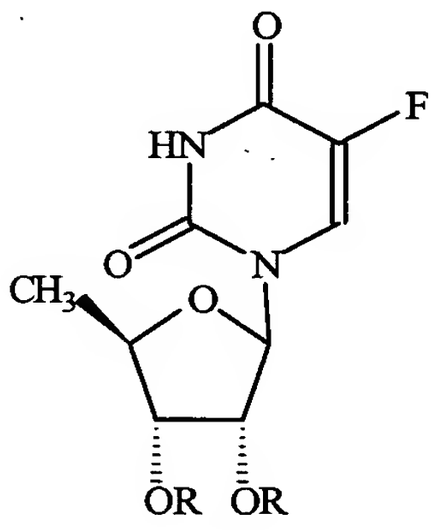
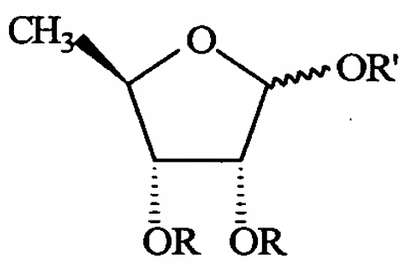
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula



(II)

in which R represents linear or branched C_1-C_5 aliphatic acyl or benzoyl, optionally substituted with C_1-C_5 alkyls, C_1-C_5 alkoxyls or halogens, which comprises the reaction of coupling of a compound of formula



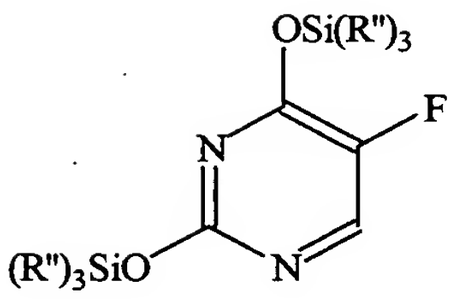
(III)

in which

R represents a linear or branched C_1-C_5 aliphatic acyl or benzoyl, optionally substituted with C_1-C_5 alkyls, C_1-C_5 alkoxyls or halogens,

R' represents R or a linear or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl,

with a compound of formula



(IV)

in which R", being identical or different, represents a C_1-C_6 alkyl or a phenyl, in the presence of a Lewis acid catalyst and in an inert organic solvent, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said Lewis acid catalyst is added to a reaction mixture of the compounds of formula (III) and formula (IV) at [[a]] an addition temperature below -10°C.

2.(Currently Amended) [[A]] The process according to claim 1 in which said addition of the Lewis acid catalyst is carried out at [[a]] an addition temperature between approx. –15 and –20°C.

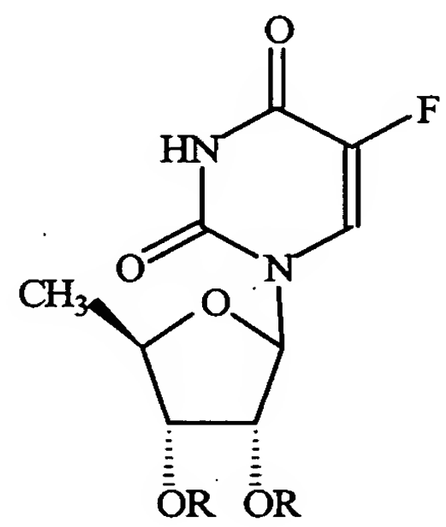
3.(Currently Amended) [[A]] The process according to claim 1 in which, on completion of said addition of said Lewis acid catalyst, the reaction mixture is held further at the [[same]] addition temperature.

4.(Currently Amended) [[A]] The process according to claim 1 in which R and R' represent acyl, ~~preferably acetyl,~~ and R" represents methyl.

5.(Currently Amended) [[A]] The process according to claim 1 in which said Lewis acid is selected from the group consisting of trimethylsilyltrifluoromethanesulphonate, [[and]] tin tetrachloride, and mixtures thereof ~~is preferably tin tetrachloride~~.

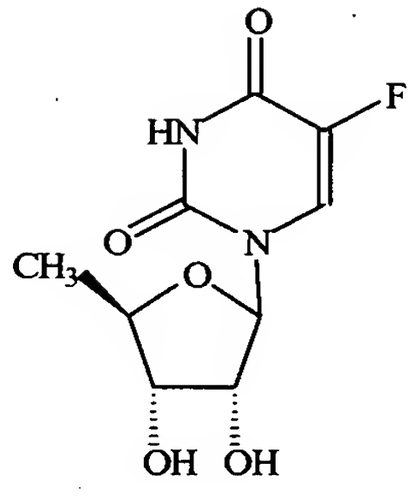
6.(Currently Amended) [[A]] The process according to claim 1 in which said inert organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of a chlorinated solvent ~~solvents~~, [[or]] aromatic solvent ~~solvents~~, and mixtures thereof preferably ~~chlorinated solvents~~.

7.(currently Amended) [[A]] The process according to claim 1 in which said compound of formula II,



(II)

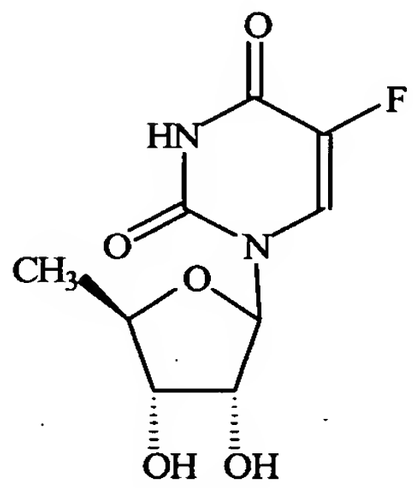
in which R represents a linear or branched C_1-C_5 aliphatic acyl or benzoyl, optionally substituted with C_1-C_5 alkyls, C_1-C_5 alkoxyls or halogens, ~~has the meanings stated above,~~ and the compound of formula (II) is further submitted to a reaction of deprotection to give doxifluridine of formula I



(I).

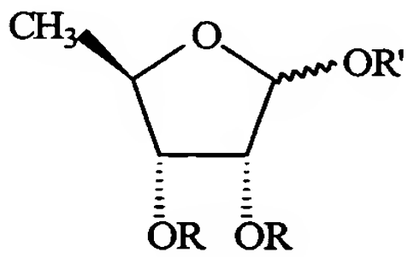
8.(Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of doxifluridine of formula

(I)



(I)

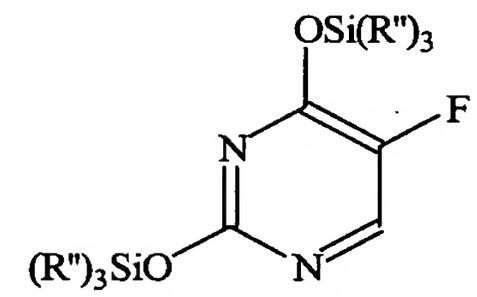
said process comprising coupling a compound of formula (III)



(III)

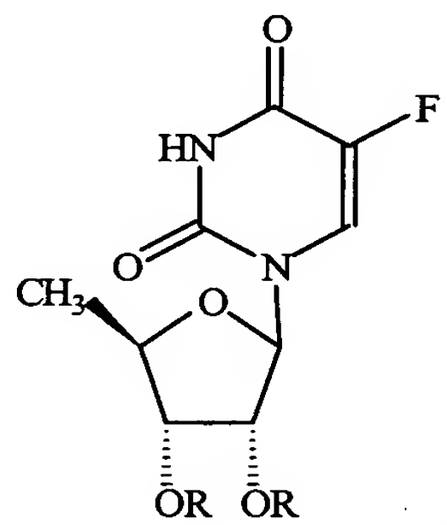
where R represents a linear or branched C_1-C_5 aliphatic acyl or benzoyl, optionally substituted with C_1-C_5 alkyls, C_1-C_5 alkoxyls or halogens,

with a compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

where R", being identical or different, represents a C_1-C_6 alkyl or a phenyl, said coupling reaction taking place in the presence of a Lewis acid being added at a temperature of less than -10 °C to provide a compound of formula (II)



(II)

and deprotecting the compound of formula (II) to provide the compound of formula (I) ~~that comprises a process according to one of the claims from 1 to 7~~.

9.(New) The process of claim 1, wherein R and R' are acetyl and R" is methyl.

10.(New) The process of claim 1, wherein the Lewis acid is tetrachloride.

11.(New) The process of claim 1, wherein the inert organic solvent is a chlorinated solvent.